



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

May 24, 2018

The Honorable Ed Hernandez, O.D.
Chair, Senate Health Committee
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 626** (Garcia) – As Amended May 9, 2018 - **OPPOSE**

Dear Senator Hernandez:

The County of San Bernardino is writing in opposition to AB 626, microenterprise home kitchen operations, which would allow for the preparation and sale of food directly to consumers from private homes. Although we admire the intent of this bill to economically empower talented home cooks, it would present serious health risks to the public and would introduce many new enforcement challenges to local governments.

AB 626 exempts microenterprise home kitchens from numerous state Health and Safety Code requirements that are designed to protect consumers from foodborne illnesses. As a result, passage of this bill would likely lead to an upsurge of complaints and increase the risk of hospitalizations and potential deaths due to foodborne illnesses from improperly cleaned kitchens and utensils, and unsafe and unsanitary food preparation methods.

The causes of foodborne diseases include, among other things, bacteria and bacterial toxins, viruses, and parasites. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that each year 48 million people get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized, and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases in the United States. In California, between 2013 and 2015, there were 3,235 illnesses, 149 hospitalizations and three (3) deaths of which 354 reported and confirmed illnesses and 16 hospitalizations arose from food prepared in private residences.

AB 626 restricts local enforcement agencies from conducting routine inspections to verify safe food handling practices. This would cause an undue risk to the community as the resources of the local public health and environmental health departments could be over-extended to accommodate the number of potential microenterprise home kitchen complaints. The operation of these enterprises in residential neighborhoods also raises a number of issues relating to parking, noise, wastewater, and fire hazards, making

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enforcement and oversight difficult for local health departments, land use services, fire services, and public works.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino respectfully opposes AB 626. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Lovingood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Robert A. Lovingood
First District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

c: Honorable Eduardo Garcia
Members and Consultants, Senate Health Committee
San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation